

Model citizen turns against boys in blue

PROTESTER Bernard Denyer is returning awards from Sussex Police as a complaint about their handling of the Shoreham live exports campaign.

The 65-year-old believes the police have become pawns of the politicians.

Now Mr Denyer, from Brighton, wants to return the Good Citizen Award he received for foiling a robbery in Worthing in 1991.

He said: "I think the police are behaving in a totally political way. The silence you get from police headquarters when you contact them is frightening."

"Nobody will convince me that there are not two types of policemen. One is the bobby who walks the streets and the other is ready to be rapidly deployed in riot gear against peaceful demonstrators like myself."

Mr Denyer is one of the hundreds of peaceful protesters who gather at Shoreham to campaign against what they say are cruel exports of live animals to the Continent, where they are eventually bound for slaughter.

There have been many clashes with police and scores of complaints from the public about police handling of the demonstrations.

Mr Denyer says he has always supported the police in



John Fern

the past and has a Neighbourhood Watch award, plus several letters of commendation from senior officers for his help to the police, which he also intends to return.

Ken Bodfish, a councillor on the Sussex Police Authority, is hoping to arrange a meeting with Chief Constable Paul Whitehouse so Mr Denyer can hand back his awards.

Coun Bodfish said: "I am extremely saddened that a man who is so proud to have received awards and letters of commendation feels that it is necessary to do this as a symbolic gesture."

"The handling of Shoreham has had a severe effect on the relationship between the police and peaceful members of the community such as him."

A Sussex Police spokesman said: "Obviously it is very sad and very regrettable that Mr Denyer has felt the need to do this, but it shows the problem that the police face in dealing with this difficult issue at Shoreham."

"It is the case that we have no choice in the matter but to uphold the law. And the law, however much people dislike it, does say that this trade is legal. We are using as few officers as we think we can safely manage to uphold the law and keep public safety down there."

► **SQUATTERS** have moved into empty offices in the heart of Brighton.

Ironically, they were formally the Grand Parade headquarters of the borough council's housing department.

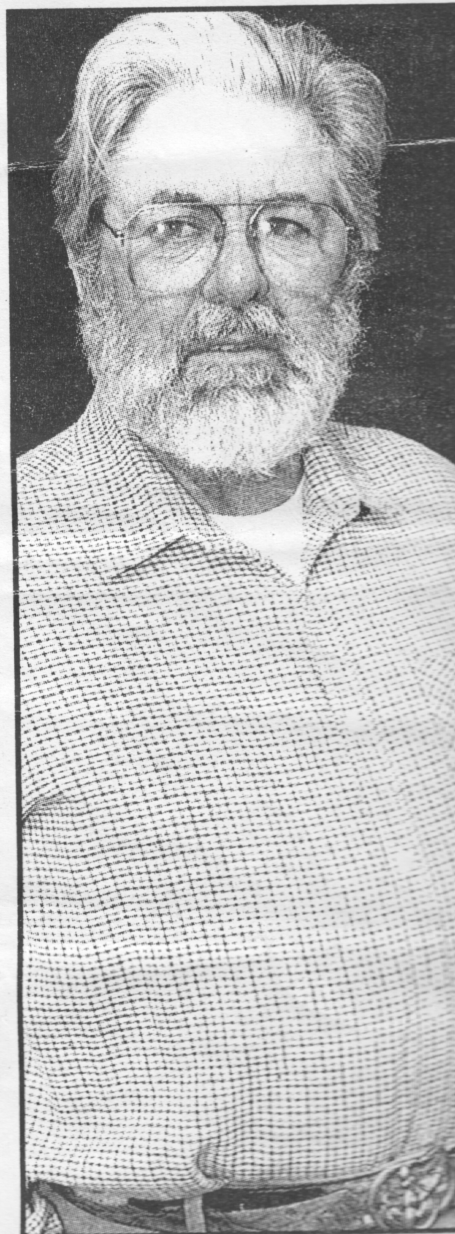
Tory councillor Mick Toner has pressed for the squatters to be moved as soon as possible. He said:

"The offices are not suitable for people to live in, especially children."

"We should use the Criminal Justice Act to deter people from squatting again."

A council spokesman said the authority was taking legal action and hoped for a court order next week.

'I think the police are behaving in a totally political way'



Mr Denyer: Giving back his award

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